



## **Community Appearance Commission**

### **Minutes August 6, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, August 6, 2008, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber located at 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Connie Baker, Suzanne Casey, Greta Connor, Suzette Davis, Diane Gibbs, Sean Meyers, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit, and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Barbara Lawther

Staff: Councilman Mark Lewis, Diana Moghrabi and Lynn Raker

The minutes of the June 4, 2008, meeting were approved as submitted. (CAC does not meet in July.)

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Neighborhoods & Education Committee**

- Greta Connor reported that the Neighborhoods & Education Committee met prior to today's CAC meeting. They discussed the "Miller House" on W. Monroe Street which is across from Varick Auditorium. The neglect of this fine old house is of grave concern.
- Greta will address the trash pickup on Institute Street with the Livingstone College when students return for the fall semester. School was not in session this summer so neighborhood residents should take responsibility for trash pickup, too.
- There are concerns about transport vehicles parked in neighborhoods.
- The 11<sup>th</sup> Street area is run down and has too many people loitering.
- There will be a fall meeting of the neighborhood leaders in preparation for the Fall Spruce Up October 13-17. Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 4 p.m. at One Water Street. (was printed in *Salisbury Post* under "Briefs")
- The issue of *No Parking on Front Lawns* will be addressed on the utility bill inserts along with the Fall Spruce Up announcement. This information should also be made available for Access 16.

- Barbara Perry, Bill Safrit, Lynn Raker, former Mayor “Sonny” Allen and CDC Director Chanaka Yatawara have been discussing potential ways to address and improve the housing conditions in Salisbury by rehabilitating and selling property. A memo was copied to the CAC.

Mark Lewis rode around the historic districts with Jack Thomson who is also interested in aiding declining conditions of the real estate market in Salisbury. Historic Salisbury Foundation wants to help people find quality homes. Paula Bohland is focusing on rehabilitation of housing in Fulton Heights and North Main areas.

Ultimately, Salisbury CAC hopes to have a citizen Housing Commission with a Code Enforcement representative as a staff liaison. Greta asked when we can anticipate the new code enforcement position being filled and the department restructured. Staff could not provide that information but will check for the September meeting.

NOTE: Nationally the housing market is suffering.

### **Art in Public Places**

- Barbara Perry reported that the Wachovia parking lot project will be done in stages due to funding. The Robertson Foundation grant will fund the tiles, which will be done first. A workshop for 4<sup>th</sup> grade art teachers is scheduled for August 20, 2008, at the Water Works Visual Arts Center. Ray Moose, the artist, will offer instructions to the teachers on how to do the tiles; teachers attending will make a tile.

The committee will meet with Bill Greene and Jim Rock of Wachovia Bank to confirm details of the project.

This project was awarded \$7,500 for trees from the Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Grant.

- The annual sculpture show will proceed to next year. Guidelines have been established and a brochure calling for artists has been published. Funding is coming from City Council and matched by a private donation from Edward and Susan Norvell. A portion of the funding will come from the Cultural Action Plan. The committee will apply for a tourism development grant; James Meacham of the Rowan Convention and Visitors Bureau is assisting with marketing and publicity.
- The June 28 dedication of the Wiley Lash plaque was a lovely event and appreciated by the family and those 100 people who attended. Mary Berrier catered the event and was so pleased with the public art committee that she donated \$1,000 to the public art committee.
- Lynn Raker stated that the total donations received for public art projects from foundations and individuals are \$31,740. (That is within the last three months.)

- The 6-month contract for the sculpture at the corner of Lee and Fisher Streets with Michael Baker has expired. He hopes to find someone willing to purchase the sculpture so it can stay at this location.

### Landscaping

Suzette Davis reported that the Landscape of the Month (LOM) Committee has named 520 Club Drive (Robert and Susan Whitaker) and Cloninger Ford. Diane Gibbs has taken photos and designed a thank you for all winners.

Diane Gibbs will keep a photographic archive of the LOM properties.

### Grants

<b>Innes Street Grant</b>		<b>Project Amount</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
<b>George's Restaurant Bldg.</b>	124 E. Innes St.	\$ 3,840.00	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 1,920.00
<b>Pottery 101</b>	101 S. Main St.	\$ 20,800.00	\$ 10,400.00	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Davis Law Office</b>	215 N. Main St.	\$ 27,200.00	\$ 13,600.00	\$ <b>2,500.00</b>
<b>Salisbury Emporium</b>	230 E. Kerr St.	\$ 9,866.00	\$ 4,933.00	\$ <b>4,933.00</b>
Total Project Amounts		\$ 61,706.00		
<b>Appropriation 7/01/08</b>				\$ <b>25,000.00</b>
Awarded funds (pending approval)				\$ 15,353.00
Pending awards				
Funds Remaining				\$ <b>9,647.00</b>

<b>MSD APPLICANT</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PROJECT AMT.</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE</b>	<b>GRANT AMT.</b>
<b>Pottery 101</b>	101 S. Main St.	\$ 12,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Brick St. Tavern</b>	122 E. Fisher St.	\$ 758.00	\$ 379.00	\$ <b>379.00</b>
<b>Davis Law Office</b>	215 N. Main St.	\$ 27,200.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ <b>2,500.00</b>
<b>Hot Junk</b>	205 S. Main St.	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,600.00	
Total Project Amounts		\$ 43,158.00		
<b>Appropriation 7/01/08</b>				\$ <b>22,000.00</b>
Requested funds				
Awarded funds (pending approval)				5,379.00
Funds Remaining				\$ <b>16,621.00</b>

Diane Gibbs reported that Pottery 101 is a very large project at the square and is on a corner lot; this is why they decided to award from both grants. Several projects were for brick repair. The committee will meet again in a couple of weeks.

## NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Raker reviewed the budget allocations. The sculpture show could be a signature project for the Cultural Action Plan which would justify the use of some of those funds.

<b>Level I Goals Requiring Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Appropriation</b>
Continue the Municipal Service District Incentive Grant program.	\$ 35,000	\$ 22,000
Continue the Innes Street Incentive Grant program.	\$ 35,000	\$ 25,000
Host speaker/ conduct public educational program in support of Cultural Action Plan.	\$ 2,500	<i>(\$ 40,000 for CAP)</i>
Continue the promotion of the spring and fall "Spruce-up Days," "Landscape of the Month," "Adopt-a-Salisbury Street," and other programs.	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,250
Improve appearance, comfort and maintenance of downtown streetscape with 3-year phased purchase and installation of additional trash receptacles and benches.	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Complete installation of Fairview Heights and Jersey City entrance signs.	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200
Continue to expand Salisbury History and Art Trail marker program and initiate annual sculpture show.	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
Add receptacles to medians on both sides of the new East Innes Street Railroad Bridge.	\$ 2,500	0

The commission is pleased with the outcome.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Lynn Raker made a presentation updating the commission on the recent Innes Street median plantings; plantings will continue on the rights-of-ways. Private donations (received approximately \$335,000 for upgraded amenities) were used to install upgraded fencing. Lynn also discovered a fund for streetscaping from NCDOT which will be used for planting.

For the I-85 interchange, NCDOT has allocated \$600,000. Some of the private donations may be used for this project to cover shortfalls in funding.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Lynn Raker also updated the commission on the alleys on Fisher Street. Efforts are underway for improvements for the “entertainment” section of the street that will soon be two-way.

There will be a meeting with adjacent property and business owners regarding the “Central City” (Bernhardt’s) parking lot Wednesday, August 20, 2008. Completion of this project has been long awaited.

CAC anticipates a neighborhood logo design for the Jersey City entrance sign from James Donaldson.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next regular CAC meeting will be September 6, 2008.